



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

CLARA D. NOYES, R.N., DEPARTMENT EDITOR

Director, Bureau of Nursing, American Red Cross

THE NURSING SERVICE ON ARMISTICE DAY

PERHAPS no event in the annals of the American people transcended in solemnity and symbolic beauty the ceremonies attending the burial of the Unknown Soldier in the National Cemetery at Arlington on Armistice Day. Vast throngs had assembled from every part of the Union, not only in our National Capitol, but in every great city where appropriate services were simultaneously held, and at high noon, when the throbbing heart of the whole civilized world was stilled for two sacred moments in tribute to that heroic heart forever stilled, it was as if the spirits of those legions who gave up life that life for the world might be made worth living, hovered in benediction over those thousands of bared and reverent heads.

It was peculiarly fitting that in the tributes paid to the Unknown Soldier as he was borne to his final resting place, the Red Cross nurses should have played so impressive a part. It was they who had ministered to him during the lurid days of war; they who had best understood and most selflessly served his needs under the Red Cross or as members of the Army Nurse Corps; and they who had eased his last hours of mortal agony as they went down with him into the Valley of the Shadow of Death. That they should follow close behind the funeral cortege on that most sacred of all memorial days was meet and right.

The ceremonies in Washington had begun the day before, when members of the American Red Cross Central and Executive Committees and other Red Cross representatives, acting as a committee for the entire Red Cross membership, went in a body to the National Capital there to place upon the bier, lying in state, the wreath given by the American Red Cross. And among this number was Clara D. Noyes, National Director of the Red Cross Nursing Service, who had been responsible for the mobilizing of 20,000 nurses for active service during the war.

In the processional that made the five-mile march next day from the Capital to the National Cemetery the nurses were an impressive group. Nearly all were ex-service nurses. From all sections of the country they had come in answer to the circular letters sent out by Miss Noyes through Division Headquarters. Their response surpassed all expectations. Among them were thirty from Base Hospital No. 1, Miss Noyes' old Bellevue unit, a large delegation from the Atlantic Division, a group of eleven from Philadelphia, and many individual nurses from all over the country. Nearly all displayed

upon their uniforms special medals received for meritorious services. Among these were Beatrice MacDonald, the first person to be assigned the Distinguished Service Cross during the war for bravery under fire; Florence Johnson with her Florence Nightingale Medal and Elizabeth Bairnsfather, a cousin of the famous cartoonist and herself a reserve nurse connected with the old base hospital units 18 and 25. From the District, thirty nurses responded.

In the historic capes that have symbolized throughout the war and all over the world the nurse's mission of healing and compassion, flung back to show a flash of scarlet lining, headed by the Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, they took the five-mile march with springing step and sparkling eyes. It was as if the scroll of the years had been rolled back again to those martial days of 1917 and 1918 when they surged forward 20,000 strong in response to their country's call. As they passed a wave of feeling, electric, vibrant with emotion followed in their wake.

"There marches the symbol and spirit of service," one man was heard to murmur, while a woman whose voice trembled with the depth of her feeling exclaimed, "The Red Cross Nurse! No other uniform thrills me as hers does. No other insignia exemplifies quite what the badge of the Nursing Service means. These are uniforms that are won, not merely worn, won after years of faithful service, never donned for idle show."

In every city where special Armistice Day ceremonies were held, the nurses were conspicuously honored.

I wish I could tell you in exactly how many different places in the Atlantic Division nurses took part, writes Florence Johnson, Director of Nursing Service in that Division. I think one might safely say that in all towns and cities where celebrations were held, the nursing service was represented. In over twenty places we were asked to furnish caps and capes for nurses in groups of from one to fifty. Here in New York, a goodly group escorted the Gold Star mothers to the meeting in Madison Square and later marched in the Armistice Day parade. More than seventy went on to Washington to participate in the ceremonies there. At first we had expected not more than ten or twelve, but after Miss Noyes spoke at the Jane A. Delano Post meeting and the nurses began to hear more of the plans, they came into Division Headquarters in groups, eager to go and pay their tribute to the unknown soldier. As all nurses were asked to defray their own expenses, this meant a great deal. We were glad to issue capes to all who requested them and every one felt that it was indeed a privilege to be a part of that wonderful ceremonial. There were several towns in the Atlantic Division where tablets or statues were unveiled in memory of the soldier dead and in each such instance the nurses participated. The people take us so much for granted that they always expect us to be a part of their celebrations without thinking to mention it afterwards.

In New York City there was also unveiled in Bellevue Hospital the beautiful bronze tablet in memory of Jane A. Delano, Eva E. Emmons, Grace McBride and Kathleen E. Symmes,—members of the

Bellevue Ex-Service Club participating in the exercises. Like Jane Delano, the other three Bellevue nurses died overseas while in the line of duty; Miss McBride in Siberia, in 1918; Miss Emmons in France, during the influenza epidemic of 1918; and Miss Symmes during the same year while on duty with the A. E. F.

Full reports from the other Divisions are not yet made up, but Mary K. Nelson of the New England Division, makes this significant reference to the response with which the people of Providence, R. I., greeted the marching nurses.

Sixty nurses took part in the Armistice Day parade in that city, and in the thirty-five minutes required for the procession to pass through the City Square, only three times did the crowd break into cheers, so solemn was the occasion. The third salvo of applause came when the Red Cross nurses in their simple white dresses and the traditional capes marched past. In them the crowd saw symbolized the women who had served in field and hospitals overseas. We have also received pictures from Athol, where a much smaller band of nurses was received with the same enthusiasm.

Incident to the above accounts of the share the nurses had in observing Armistice Day, it may be mentioned that nurses more and more are being invited to participate in patriotic demonstrations the country over. A notable example is the "Foch Day parade" held in the various cities visited by the celebrated French commander upon the occasion of his visits. In Indianapolis, an Ex-service Personnel parade was staged and great pains taken to make the day a memorable one not only in the eyes of the distinguished visitor, but in the annals of the state.

"Everybody who marched was either in service or an ex-service man or woman," writes the Lake Division. "We nurses were very much honored in being permitted to march in the parade, as there was only one other very small group of women in the whole long line of men. We secured a very good Sergeant to drill us a few evenings before time for the parade. We marched in cross formation, which proved to be very much of a *Red Cross*, as we had the flaps of our capes thrown back over our right shoulders with the Red Cross on the left side very much exposed to the spectators. Applause greeted the marching nurses all along the four-mile line of march and when they passed the reviewing stand, where Marshal Foch and the other celebrities were seated, every man in uniform stood at salute."

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

The annual meeting of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service was held Tuesday, December 6, in all day session at National Headquarters, Miss Clara D. Noyes presiding.

Surgeons-General of the Army and Navy were present, also the superintendents of the Army, Navy, and U. S. Public Health Service Nurse Corps.

Reports were given of the last meeting of the National Committee on the following subjects: Enrollment, Assignment to Duty, Nursing Service in Foreign Countries, Public Health Nursing, Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, Nutrition and Volunteer Services.

Incident to the discussion of enrollment it was pointed out that citizenship is now a qualification for the Army as well as the Navy Nurse Corps. It was therefore recommended that in the future all applicants for enrollment who are not citizens should be required to submit their first papers to the Red Cross before their appointment card is issued.

After hearing the report of the Special Committee appointed to make a study of the public health nurse under supervision as an equivalent of deficient preliminary training, it was recommended that only under exceptional circumstances should this be accepted. A lowering of the present requirement of graduation from a school of nursing connected with a hospital having a daily average of 50 patients giving general experience was suggested. After considerable discussion it was decided to adhere to the present requirement in order that enrollment in the Red Cross Nursing Service might continue to be regarded as an achievement to be worked for and also for the purpose of stimulating schools to meet, by affiliation, this present requirement.

Following a discussion upon the utilization of volunteers in civilian hospitals presented by Mabel Wilcox, Director of the Red Cross Volunteer Service, it was recommended that inasmuch as other organizations, such as the Junior League and the King's Daughters, were also offering assistance to hospitals of this nature, a definition of the limitations of such service might well be considered by the National League of Nursing Education. It was therefore recommended to hold the question of the utilization of Red Cross Volunteer Aides for this purpose in abeyance for the present.

High tribute was paid to the value of the work in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick by Charles S. Scott, Vice-Chairman of Financial Affairs, who was a speaker at the afternoon session. Mr. Scott brought forward the question of an elementary text-book of similar character to that now in use, for younger school children. After some discussion it was explained that health instruction was being given by school nurses and that suitable literature dealing with this subject had already been prepared by the Department of the Interior, while the text-book, "Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick," supplemented by the "Guide to Instructors," should be sufficient to present the subject matter to classes of varying types of pupils.

Glowing descriptions of the value of the Convalescent Home at Bay Shore, L. I., were given by Florence M. Johnson, Director of Nursing in the Atlantic Division; 262 disabled nurses have been guests since December, 1920. The fact that no time limit is set upon a nurse's stay is responsible, Miss Johnson believes, for cures not otherwise easily effected.

Mr. Marion G. Scheitlein, National Director of Public Information, addressed the Committee on the subject of the new national weekly, "The Red Cross Courier," to be launched in January, 1922. This will supplant all bulletins formerly published by National and Division Headquarters, and will consist of an eight-page publication, half the size of a standard newspaper. Live news, special articles, and pictures bearing upon all phases of Red Cross work at home and abroad will constitute the content, the only department being one devoted to the nursing service. For this reason particularly it is hoped that every Red Cross Nurse will help to guarantee the success of the new weekly by subscribing herself and by soliciting her friends, whether enrolled Red Cross nurses or otherwise, to subscribe also.